

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE FROM CALIFORNIA.

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The mouse here described is a slightly characterized form of the '*austerus-canadensis* group' which is one of several in the genus *Peromyscus* well known to be very much in need of thorough revision. Until such revision can be made it seems best to treat this form as a subspecies of *Peromyscus oreas** which is apparently its nearest relative. It occupies the humid coast strip of northern California, having a range coinciding with that of a number of mammals and birds belonging to groups which reach their highest development farther north. It is thus the only member of the *austerus-canadensis* group found within the State of California.

Peromyscus oreas rubidus subsp. nov.

Type from Mendocino City, Mendocino Co., California. No. 91,650 Biological Survey Coll., ♀ yg-ad. Collected Nov. 17, 1897 by J. A. Loring. Orig. No. 4,925.

Distribution.—Coast region of northern California and southern Oregon, extending south at least as far as Cazadero, California, or nearly through the redwood strip.

Characters.—Similar to *Peromyscus oreas* but with shorter tail and smaller hind foot; general color, particularly in summer, shades of ruddy brown or chocolate instead of shades of brown tinged with yellowish. Similar to *Peromyscus austerus* but somewhat larger and lighter in color. Skull similar to that of *P. oreas*, well distinguished from that of *P. austerus*.

Color.—*Type* (in worn summer pelage): Upperparts brownish fawn

* Bangs. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. XII, 83-84, Mar. 24, 1898.

with an evident dark median dorsal line, sides brownish fawn, being of a shade somewhat between the chocolate and fawn color of Ridgway (Pl. III, figs. 2 and 22); ears lightly edged with whitish, lanuginous tufts usually with a few white or whitish hairs; dark spot at base of whiskers nearly obsolete; underparts white; tail sharply bicolor.

Skull.—Not definitely distinguishable from that of *Peromyscus oreas*;† decidedly larger and heavier than in *P. austerus*; braincase fuller and wider; rostrum and infraorbital region heavier; audital bullæ larger.

Measurements.—Although the skull of *P. rubidus* is not appreciably smaller than that of *oreas* the hind foot is constantly smaller and the tail shorter. The following table indicates this difference.

Peromyscus oreas.

Number.	Sex.	Locality.	Length.	Tail.	Hind foot.
3,696‡	♀	Mt. Baker Range, B. C.....	200	101	24
3,694‡	♂	“ “ “ “	207	114	24
89,861	♀	Mt. Rainier, Wash.....	206	112	24
89,863	♀	“ “ “	204	118	23
89,870	♀	“ “ “	210	117	23
90,077	♂	“ “ “	197	107	23
Average, 6 adults.....			204	111	23.5

Peromyscus oreas rubidus.

Number.	Sex.	Locality.	Length.	Tail.	Hind foot.
91,650	♀	Mendocino, Calif.....	203	99	21
91,648	♀	“ “	189	99	21
91,647	♂	“ “	190	95	22
98,401	♀	Briceland, Calif.....	200	100	22
98,402	♂	“ “	180	90	21
97,232	♀	Hoopa Valley, Calif.....	200	96	22
Average, 6 adults.....			193	96	21.5

†In the series before me the nasals are very slightly longer in *oreas* than in *rubidus* but it does not seem safe to assume that this slight difference is constant.

‡Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs.